

PH 036242X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUN 14 1976

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

MANZANAR WAR RELOCATION CENTER

AND/OR COMMON

MANZANAR

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ten miles north of Lone Pine, six miles south of Independence ^{C 4 395}

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

(Post Office: Independence)

VICINITY OF

18th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Inyo

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power

STREET & NUMBER

111 North Hope Street

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles 90012

VICINITY OF

California

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records of City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power

STREET & NUMBER

111 North Hope Street

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California 90012

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Manzanar Feasibility Study

DATE

September, 1974

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

The Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California 95811

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally known as George's Creek, Manzanar was settled by pioneers in the late 1860's. Later, the land was purchased by small farmers and became known as Manzanar with a post office, school and store. When the City of Los Angeles was expanding out into San Fernando Valley, the Department of Water and Power, in search of water to supply the expanded area, purchased Manzanar and other plots of land in Owens Valley. Soon the area became desert land, with only a few fruit trees surviving.

Following the outbreak of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the Secretary of State to designate areas from which all persons of Japanese ancestry were to be excluded. Manzanar was the first of ten camps built to contain this displaced population. On March 21, 1942 and March 23, 1942, 1,000 volunteers arrived to help build the camps under the direction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Manzanar, during its life span was almost a self-contained city, isolated and with little contact with the outside world. The total area covers 6,000 acres, about 250 miles north of Los Angeles. The living area covered approximately 620 acres, composed of 36 blocks. Each block contained 16 barracks, a central mess hall, laundry and bath house, and latrines for men and women. During its life span, Manzanar residents developed their own food kitchens, hospital, canteens, schools and recreational facilities by which they tried to carry on some semblance of the normal life they had left behind.

Manzanar was closed in November, 1945. The campsite was soon reclaimed by the desert. Cement foundations, stone steps, remains of Japanese "tea gardens", an auditorium and two sentry posts as well as a "Soul Consoling Tower" remain as grim reminders of a lamentable episode in American history.

In January, 1972, the California State Department of Parks and Recreation acknowledged Manzanar as Historic Landmark #850. On April 14, 1973, a bronze plaque was placed in the stone house which is still standing at the former entrance to the campsite. Each year a pilgrimage is held at which time, both Protestant and Buddhist services are held at the cemetery site. The State Department of Parks and Recreation has completed a Feasibility Study which recommends that Manzanar should be incorporated in the State Park System to interpret a significant aspect of California history.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
20th Century		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES March, 1942 - September, 1945 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Manzanar Relocation Center represents a lamentable period in American history during which over 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, the majority of them American citizens, were held captive by their own nation.

Manzanar was the first camp built and overnight became a "major" city of 10,000 men, women and children when evacuation started in earnest in March, 1942. The movement inland of the Japanese is today generally attributed to the war hysteria of the moment and the years of racial antagonism and intolerance that preceded it. The western portions of the United States, and California in particular, had a history of anti-Asian agitation by various pressure groups which rose to a fever pitch with the start of World War II. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the Secretary of War to designate such areas from which the Japanese may be proscribed. By March 16, 1942, work began in the Owens Valley under the direction of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Within this square mile of desert the displaced population, primarily from the Los Angeles and Southern California areas, found 36 blocks of tar-paper barracks in which they were to live out the duration of the war.

Although conditions seemed idyllic on the surface, the tensions, hopelessness and shattered hopes that were left behind plus the hardships of the climate of Owens Valley, cowed and subjugated the populace to a seeming placid acceptance of their fate. While the constitutional legality of their imprisonment was contested, it was not until the later stages of the war that the Supreme Court made its decision. In the case of Mitsu Endo, the Supreme Court on Dec. 19, 1944, ruled that loyal citizens could not be detained within such camps against their will.

Justice Robert Jackson in his dissenting opinion on the Korematsu case said. "The principle then lies about like a loaded weapon ready for the hand of any authority that can bring forward a plausible claim of an urgent need."

Manzanar is an important symbol to most Japanese Americans today, as it re-creates for them that moment in their lives when all the world was enclosed within this one-mile square.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newspapers: Inyo Independent, 1941-1945
Manzanar Free Press, 1942-1945

Books: Born Free and Equal, text and photographs by Ansel Adams, 1944
Our World, Manzanar High School annual, 1943

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 620 640

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	11	397000	4066100	B	11	397900	4064950
C	11	396600	4064200	D	11	395900	4065350

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sue Kunitomi Embrey, Co-Chairperson

ORGANIZATION

The Manzanar Committee

DATE

July 31, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1566 Curran Street

TELEPHONE

662-5102

CITY OR TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California 90026

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Dept. of Parks & Recreation

DATE

MAY 19, 76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-31-76

ATTEST

DATE

7-30-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The following historical summary is taken from the Manzanar Feasibility Study of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, September 1974.

HISTORIC DATA

In February, 1942, acting in the wake of Pearl Harbor and in the fear that the mainland would be invaded, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 committing 110,000 Japanese Americans, including 93,000 native-born Californians, to imprisonment without a charge, a hearing, or a trial.

On February 20, 1942, General DeWitt was empowered to carry out this order. On March 18, the President created a War Relocation Authority, and five days later the first of the affected aliens and Japanese of American birth were given their orders to report for relocation and confinement.

In California, the primary movement to the assembly areas brought thousands of persons of Japanese extraction into assembly centers in Fresno, Marysville, Merced, Pinedale, Pomona, Walerga, Salinas, Santa Anita, Stockton, Tanforan, Tulare, and Turlock. In Oregon, Japanese were taken to a center in Portland; in Washington, to Puyallup; in Arizona, to Camp Mayer.

By April, all had been placed in ten permanent camps located at Tule Lake and Manzanar in California; Minidoka in Idaho; Topaz in Utah; Gila River and Poston in Arizona; Heart Mountain in Wyoming; Amache in Colorado; and McGehee and Denson in Arkansas.

This study focuses on Manzanar, the first of the ten camps. Manzanar, located on a 6,000-acre tract of land in Inyo County's Owens Valley, is only 280 miles from Los Angeles, but even today there is a sense of remoteness and isolation about the area.

Though somewhat better than most of the other camps, Manzanar was made up of temporary blocks of barracks patterned after old CCC camps or Army "theater of action" camps. A typical block contained 15 tarpaper-covered barracks, each divided into four, five, or six rooms. There is a difference of opinion as to how many people were accommodated in each room, but lack of privacy was a problem. Furnishings were an army cot, a pad, and a blanket. Many rooms had small stoves. Chairs and tables were often built by the internees from scrap lumber and boxes. Some furniture was provided by friends who, in occasionally visiting the camp, noted the lack of household goods and conveniences.

Each block contained a mess hall, a laundry and bath house, and a latrine for each sex. One of the barracks was improvised for use as a school. However, this facility contained no books, desks, or equipment of any kind suited to the purpose.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Imprisoned under law by the Relocation Authority, the internees of Manzanar tried to carry on a semblance of the life that many, as American citizens, had known before the war. But this was impossible for the reality of subjugation was always present. Despite the degrading experience, many of the young men joined the service when it was announced in 1943 that the Army would enlist recruits for an all-Nisei combat team to fight in Europe. This combat team later distinguished itself as the most decorated single fighting unit in the U. S. Army. Japanese Americans also served in the Pacific theater as interpreters.

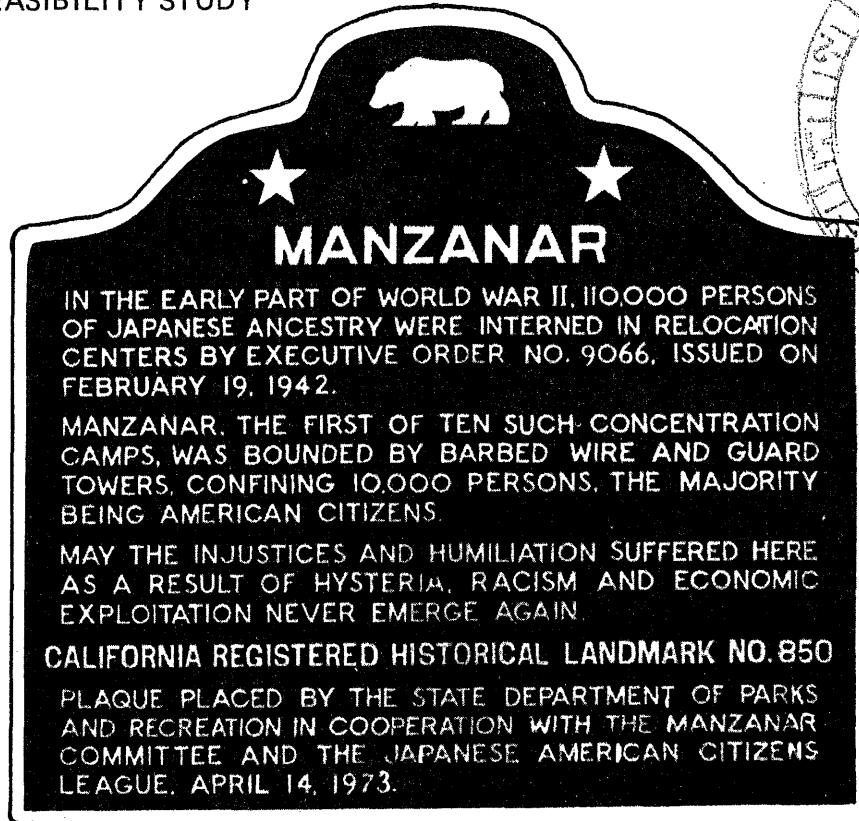
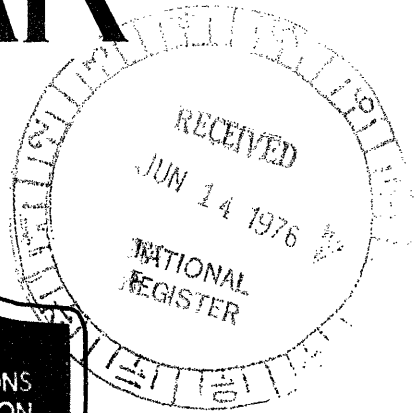
It was not until late in the war that the illegality of imprisonment of the American citizens of Japanese extraction was determined. In a case filed by Mitsu Endo, the Supreme Court reversed itself and ruled that loyal citizens could not be detained within relocation centers against their wills.

The Manzanar Camp was closed in 1945. With the exception of several buildings, floor slabs, two rock sentinel gate stations, a few graves, remains of a "tea garden," the hospital foundations, and the mess hall debris, the campsite was soon reclaimed by the desert. To many Japanese Americans "it recreates for them that moment in their lives when all the world was enclosed within this one-mile square."¹

1. Manzanar Committee and Japanese American Citizens League's application for registration of Manzanar as a State Historical Landmark.

MANZANAR

FEASIBILITY STUDY



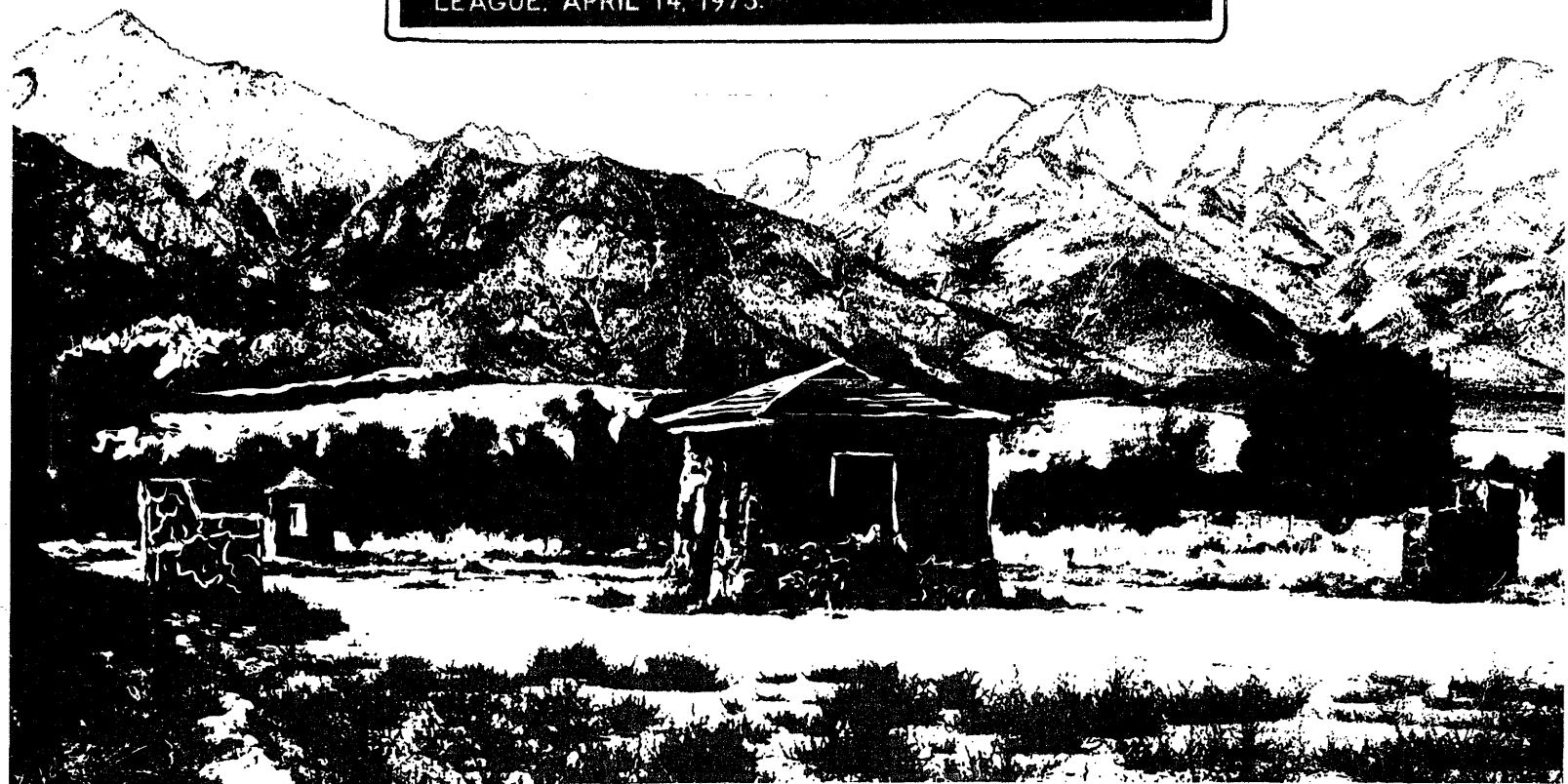
IN THE EARLY PART OF WORLD WAR II, 110,000 PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WERE INTERNED IN RELOCATION CENTERS BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9066, ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 19, 1942.

MANZANAR, THE FIRST OF TEN SUCH CONCENTRATION CAMPS, WAS BOUNDED BY BARBED WIRE AND GUARD TOWERS, CONFINING 10,000 PERSONS, THE MAJORITY BEING AMERICAN CITIZENS.

MAY THE INJUSTICES AND HUMILIATION SUFFERED HERE AS A RESULT OF HYSTERIA, RACISM AND ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION NEVER EMERGE AGAIN.

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 850

PLAQUE PLACED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE MANZANAR COMMITTEE AND THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE, APRIL 14, 1973.



House Resolution No. 135
Relative to Manzanar Internment Camp

WHEREAS, A shameful chapter in American history was written during World War II, when thousands of American citizens were locked up in concentration camps without a trial — their only crime being that they were born of Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Because of the trauma caused by the disaster at Pearl Harbor, reason was driven from the minds of many American people, and liberals and conservatives alike demanded the imprisonment of the Japanese-Americans without trial; and

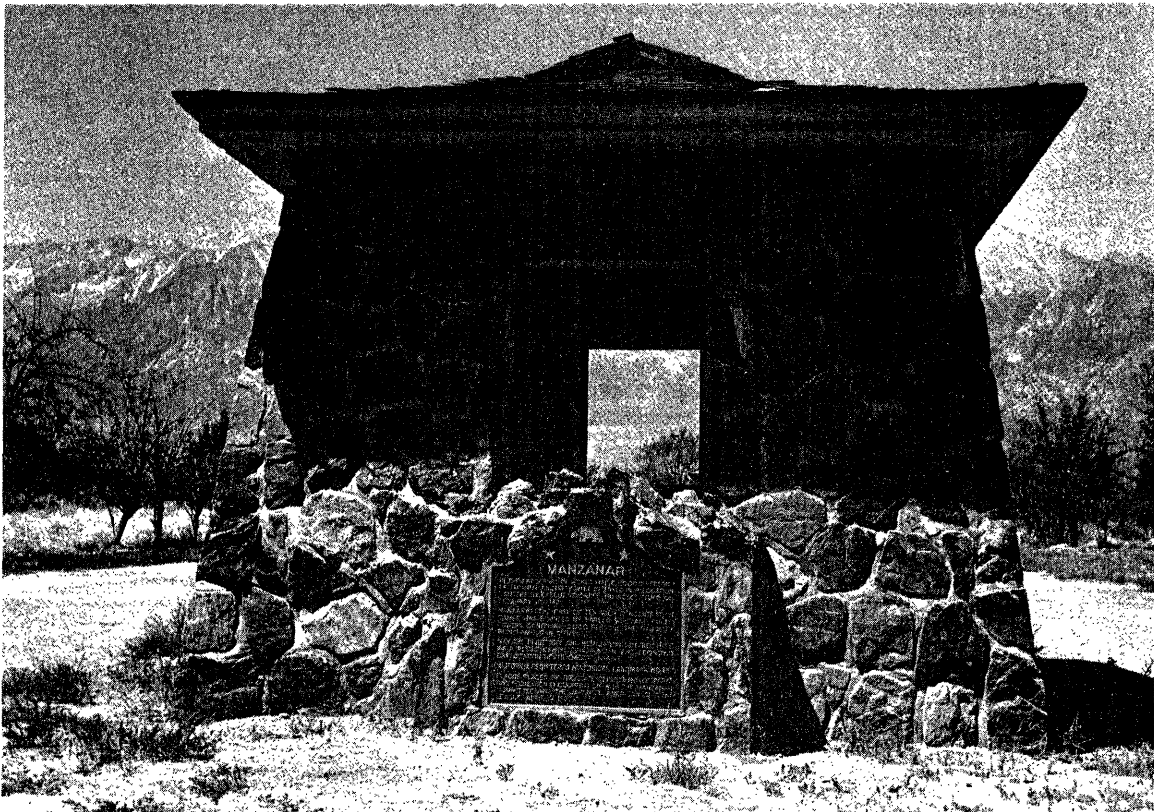
WHEREAS, One of the most notorious of the concentration camps was Manzanar near the town of Lone Pine; and

WHEREAS, Rather than allowing Manzanar, and what it stood for, to fade into the forgotten past, a portion of it ought to be preserved and restored to a monument of what can happen in America to Americans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the Department of Parks and Recreation is requested to conduct a study, and develop a plan, for the acquisition and preservation of a portion of Manzanar Internment Camp as an historical unit of the state park system; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Resolution read; and held at the Desk by order of the Acting Speaker.



**MANZANAR
FEASIBILITY STUDY**

September 1974

Ronald Reagan
*Governor
State of California*

N. B. Livermore, Jr.
Secretary for Resources

William Penn Mott, Jr.
*Director
Department of Parks and Recreation*



**State of California — The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811**

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WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

Presidio of San Francisco, California

May 3, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

Living in the Following Area:

All of that portion of the County of Alameda, State of California, within the boundary beginning at the point where the southerly limits of the City of Oakland meet San Francisco Bay; thence easterly and following the southerly limits of said city to U. S. Highway No. 50; thence southerly and easterly on said Highway No. 50 to its intersection with California State Highway No. 21; thence southerly on said Highway No. 21 to its intersection, at or near Warm Springs, with California State Highway No. 17; thence southerly on said Highway No. 17 to the Alameda-Santa Clara County line; thence westerly and following said county line to San Francisco Bay; thence northerly, and following the shoreline of San Francisco Bay to the point of beginning.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34, this Headquarters, dated May 3, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Saturday, May 9, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Sunday, May 3, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Northern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

920 - "C" Street,
Hayward, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency.

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Monday, May 4, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Tuesday, May 5, 1942.

2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:
 - (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
 - (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
 - (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
 - (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
 - (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.
5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner, of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.
6. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.

J. L. DeWITT
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811



September 16, 1974

Honorable Leo McCarthy
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

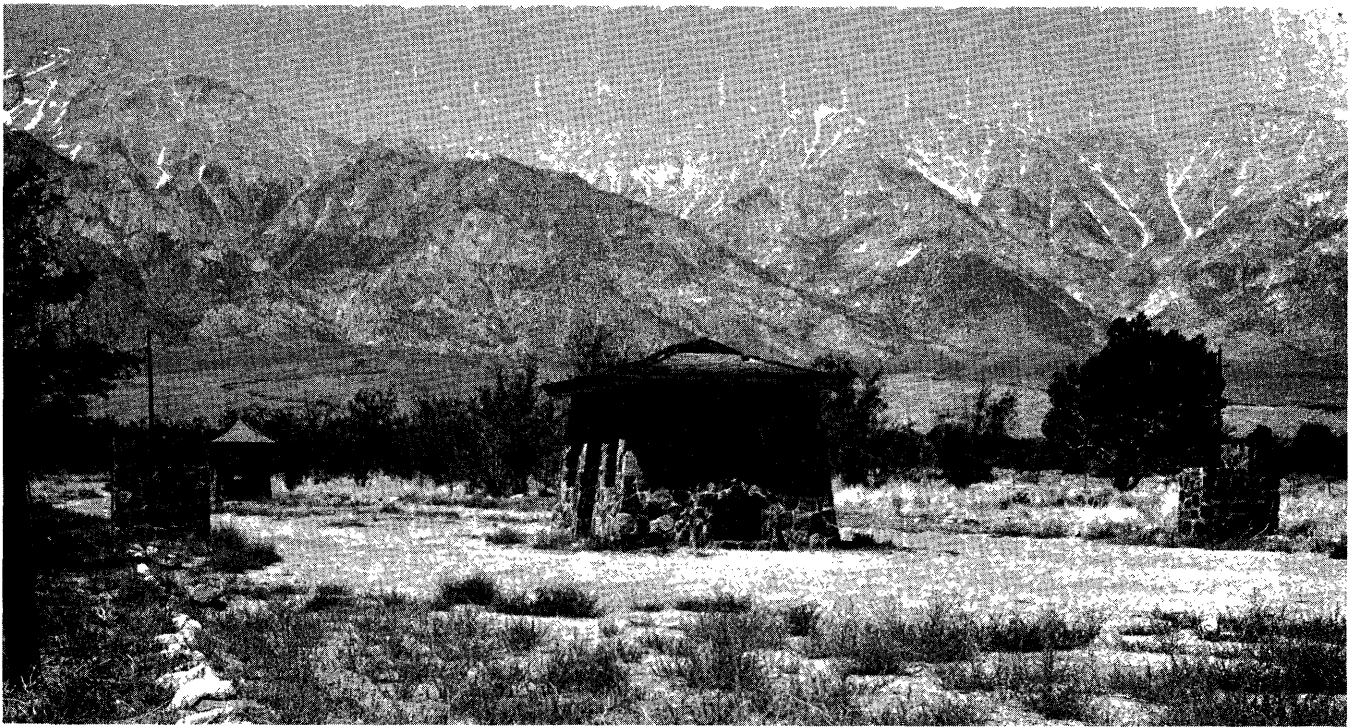
In response to House Resolution No. 135, the Department of Parks and Recreation has studied the feasibility of acquiring and developing the site of the Manzanar Internment Camp.

Because of its historical significance, it is the conclusion of this study that Manzanar should be acquired and operated as a historical unit of the State Park System.

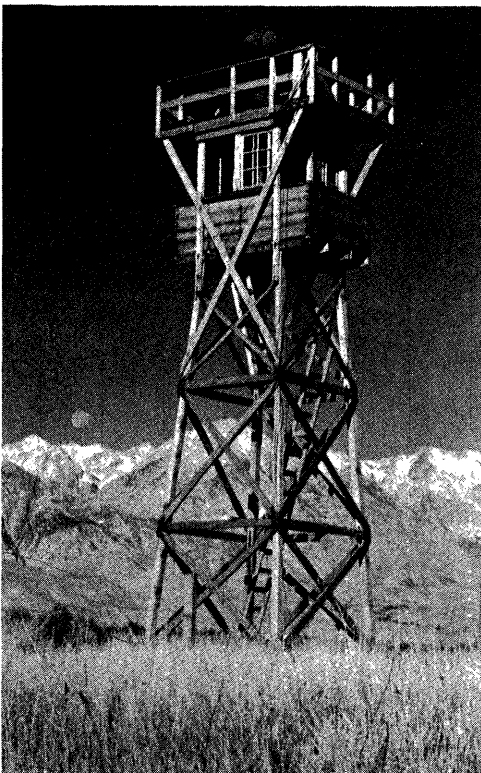
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Penn Mott, Jr.", written over the typed name.

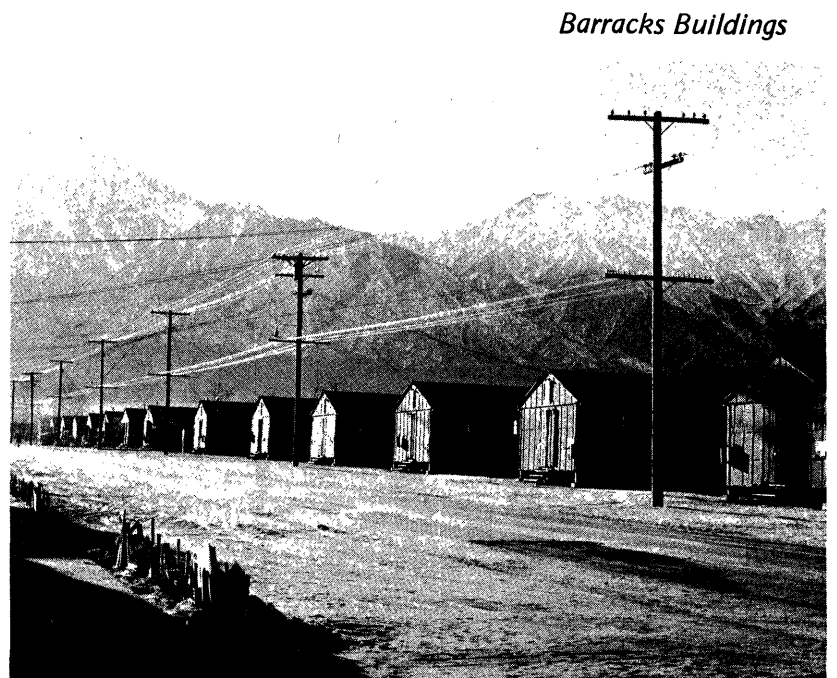
William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director



Entrance Gate

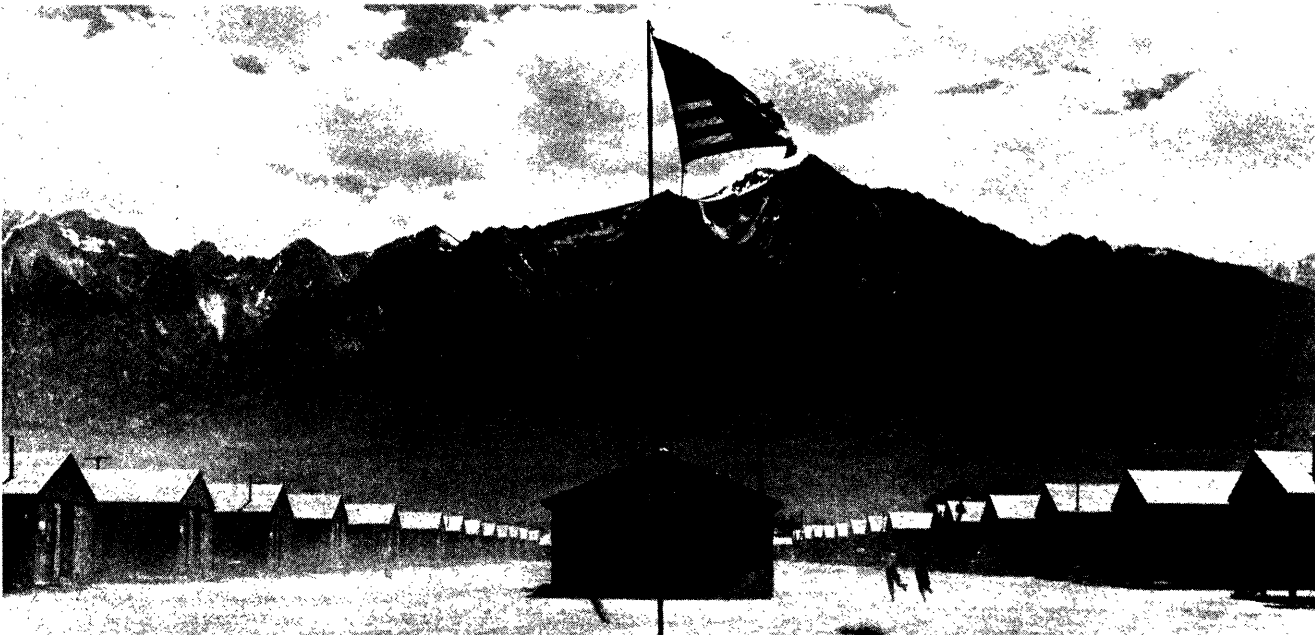
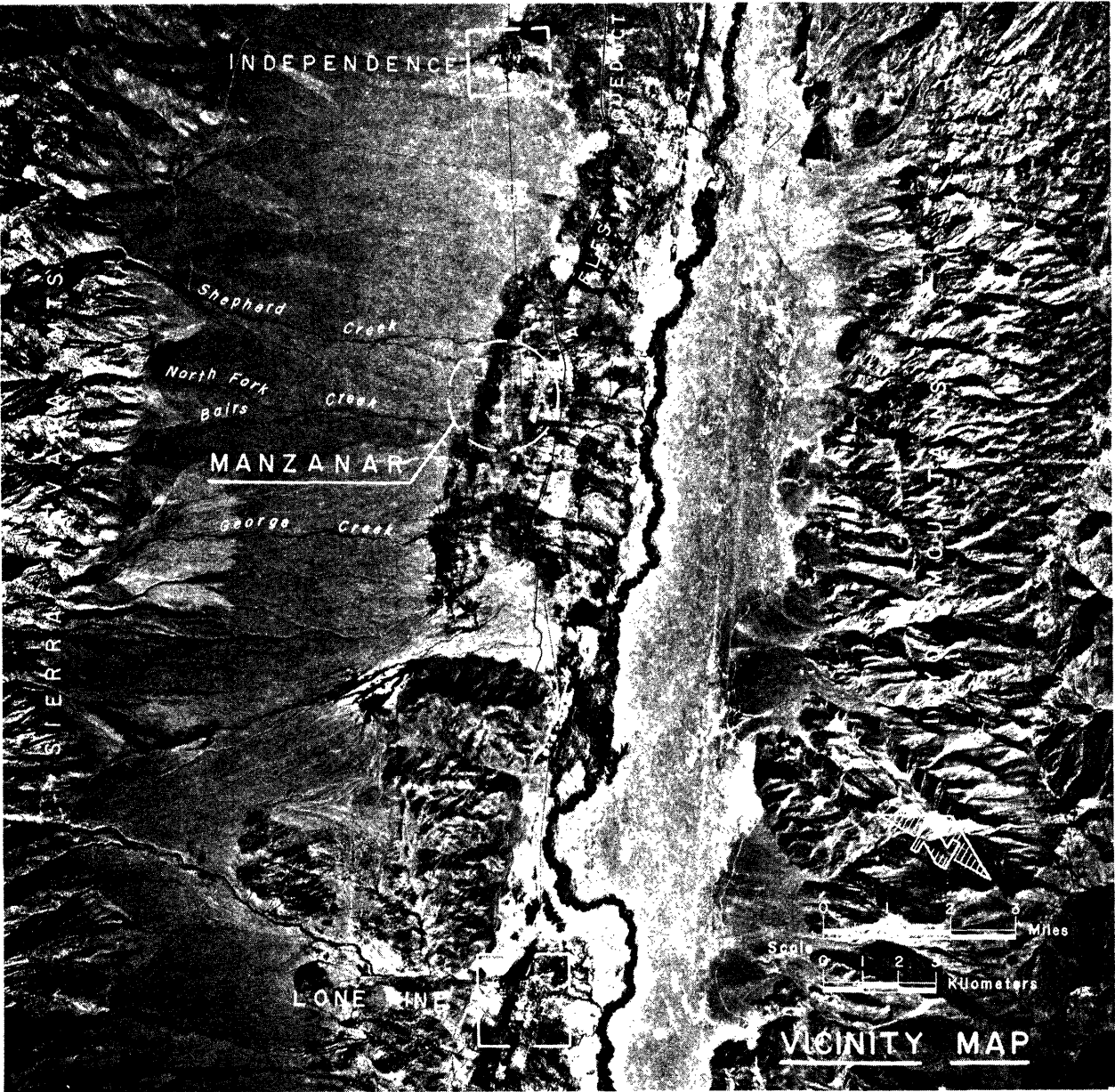


Guard Tower



Barracks Buildings

FIGURE 1



MANZANAR

Location

The site of the Manzanar Internment Camp is located in Inyo County halfway between Independence and Lone Pine in Owens Valley. The camp is situated at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada near Mount Whitney in the Desert and Desert Mountains Landscape Province.

Manzanar is immediately adjacent to California State Highway 395 and is four hours driving time from Los Angeles or seven hours from San Francisco.

Physical Characteristics

Climate

During the summer and autumn, there is a late evening-early morning northerly wind in the Owens Valley. Conversely, in the heat of the afternoon, a southerly wind that is occasionally strong is common. Summer skies are mostly clear with occasional thunderstorms from May through August. The days are hot and dry, the nights cool.

Winter and spring daytime temperatures are in the 50s, night temperatures in the 20s. The greatest amounts of precipitation fall from October through February. Strong northerly winds blow during the months of February, March, and April. The closest weather station, 46 miles to the north at Bishop at an elevation only 200 feet higher than that of Manzanar, recorded mean extreme high air temperatures for June and July of 109°F with a normal daily maximum of 98°F in July. The mean extreme low temperature for January is -6°F with a normal daily minimum of 20°F. Normal precipitation, consisting of both rain and snow, is 6 inches per year.

Geomorphology

The project site is located at a 3,900-foot elevation and is midway between the bases of the Sierra Nevada and Inyo mountains. This 500-acre site is on the gentle slope rising uniformly to the base of the Sierra Nevada. It has a sweeping view of the Sierra Nevada crest, similar to most areas in this valley.

The site is located between two fault lines in the valley on alluvial materials deposited from the Sierra Nevada. When a major earthquake destroyed the nearby Inyo County Courthouse on March 26, 1872, land in the area dropped 20 feet.

Vegetation

The land, like all of Owens Valley, is former agricultural land, largely abandoned when water was preempted by the City of Los Angeles in 1912 through 1924.

Nevertheless, the site is an oasis compared to the surrounding arid areas. Trees outline the street pattern of the abandoned camp, though little of the native shrub has reestablished itself.

Wildlife

Tule elk were introduced to Owens Valley in 1933 and to the Manzanar area in 1971. They are protected and managed by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Cultural Resources

The Owens Valley was originally inhabited by a group of Paiute people, few of whom remain in this area today. They were, in aboriginal times, a typical California/Great Basin hunting and gathering people oriented to the east slopes of the Sierra, the Owens River and its many tributary streams, and Owens Lake itself.

There are no known prehistoric archeological values in the study area; however, there is evidence of prehistoric Indian occupation in the Owens Valley region.

The region was settled around 1903. Farmers planted extensive apple and pear orchards in the study area. A community developed in the area and was named Manzanar, presumably from the Spanish word for apple orchard.

The City of Los Angeles acquired almost all of the valley floor lands to obtain water rights and transport the water to the city. As a result, the land reverted to its present barren state.

Historic Data

In February, 1942, acting in the wake of Pearl Harbor and in the fear that the mainland would be invaded, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 committing 110,000 Japanese Americans, including 93,000 native-born Californians, to imprisonment without a charge, a hearing, or a trial.

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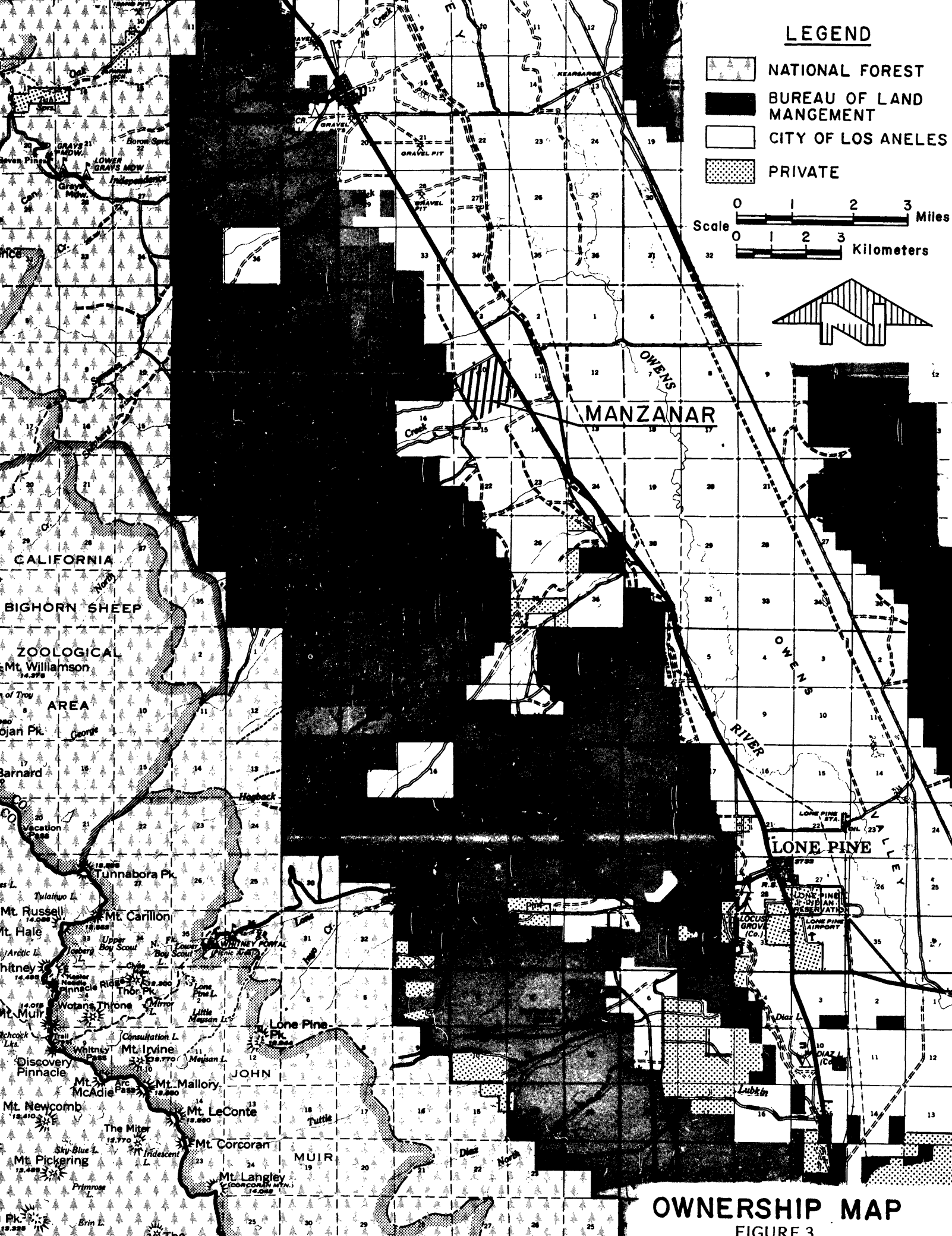
Each block contained a mess hall, a laundry and bath house, and a latrine for each sex. One of the barracks was improvised for use as a school. However, this facility contained no books, desks, or equipment of any kind suited to the purpose.

Imprisoned under law by the Relocation Authority, the internees of Manzanar tried to carry on a semblance of the life that many, as American citizens, had known before the war. But this was impossible for the reality of subjugation was always present. Despite the degrading experience, many of the young men joined the service when it was announced in 1943 that the Army would enlist recruits for an all-Nisei combat team to fight in Europe. This combat team later distinguished itself as the most decorated single fighting unit in the U.S. Army. Japanese Americans also served in the Pacific theater as interpreters.

It was not until late in the war that the illegality of imprisonment of the American citizens of Japanese extraction was determined. In a case filed by Mitsu Endo, the Supreme Court reversed itself and ruled that loyal citizens could not be detained within relocation centers against their wills.

The Manzanar Camp was closed in 1945. With the exception of several buildings, floor slabs, two rock sentinel gate stations, a few graves, remains of a "tea garden," the hospital foundations, and the mess hall debris, the campsite was soon reclaimed by the desert. To many Japanese Americans "it recreates for them that moment in their lives when all the world was enclosed within this one-mile square."¹

1. Manzanar Committee and Japanese American Citizens League's application for registration of Manzanar as a State Historical Landmark.



OWNERSHIP MAP

FIGURE 3

Present and Potential Land Use

The City of Los Angeles owns the land at Manzanar, with its Department of Water and Power administering the area for purposes of water collection and transportation to the city. The project area is under lease for cattle grazing.

A 4.33-acre area surrounding the rock sentry house and police post plus a cemetery monument and parking area is leased under License Agreement No. 419 to the Manzanar Committee and the National Japanese American Citizens League for a historic site. Manzanar is registered as a California Historical Landmark. The historic plaque attached to the sentry house reads:

"In the early part of World War II, 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were interned in relocation centers by Executive Order No. 9066, issued on February 19, 1942.

Manzanar, the first of ten such concentration camps, was bounded by barbed wire and guard towers, confining 10,000 persons, the majority being American citizens.

May the injustices and humiliation suffered here as a result of hysteria, racism and economic exploitation never emerge again."

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 850

Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Manzanar Committee and the Japanese American Citizens League, April 14, 1973."

Inyo County has a vehicle maintenance facility in the project area. It is a fence-enclosed compound surrounding the original auditorium building for the internment camp. The building functions as a maintenance and repair garage with storage of many vehicles and pieces of equipment in the compound. If evicted, the county wants adequate compensation to replace this facility. Some other original camp buildings are located in the surrounding area.

The airport, directly across Highway 395 from Manzanar, is also owned by the City of Los Angeles. It was completed on August 10, 1943. This airport is now considered "abandoned" by the Federal Aviation Agency. It has been used by aircraft up to 28,000 lb. of gross weight (DC 3). Present use is limited to infrequent airplane landings and a few automobile racing events during the summer months. Both Independence and Lone Pine have small airports. The Federal Aviation Agency says that if any of the three airports is to be developed to a greater degree, it should be the one at Manzanar, which could then serve both towns. To receive federal aid in rehabilitating the facility, Manzanar Airport would have to be included in the "National Airport Plan."

Inyo County's Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are in favor of developing Manzanar as a historic unit of the State Park System.

Access and Utilities

The project site is immediately adjacent to State Highway 395. Roads within the site are in varying degrees of disrepair, most being nearly obliterated. Power and water would be available from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Electric powerlines run along the highway. Water in moderate supply could be provided from wells. Telephone service is available from the Continental Telephone Company.

The soils are suitable for sewage leaching. The nearest sewage treatment facility is nine miles south in Lone Pine.

Park and Recreation Values

Criteria

Areas included in the State Park System must help meet the following objectives of the Department of Parks and Recreation:

1. Preserve the best examples of California's scenic and natural landscape.
2. Preserve significant evidence of the state's history.
3. Provide adequate opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Historic Significance

The historic significance of the internment camp of the Japanese Americans can certainly be regarded as a notable aspect of U.S. history in relation to mass wartime psychology as exemplified by the public and official reaction to the presence of Japanese populations in America at the outbreak of World War II. The Supreme Court decision on internment of American citizens was a judicial landmark in civil rights. The fact that 10,000 Japanese Americans were forced to live at Manzanar, their Constitutional rights denied, is a sad chapter in U.S. and California history.

Landscape Significance

The environmental resources of the Manzanar project are not of special significance to the State Park System. The project lies in the bottom of the Owens Valley and shares with all remaining lands in this valley sweeping views of the crest of the Sierra Nevada on the west and of the Inyo mountains on the east. The valley is protected from development by City of Los Angeles ownership. The Inyo County planning goal of confining new development to existing towns protects the valley from strip development along the highway.

Similar observations apply to the physical surroundings of the site itself. The land, like the rest of the Owens Valley, is former agricultural land that was largely abandoned at the time when water was preempted by the City of Los Angeles many decades ago. Plant and animal life do not differ significantly, if at all, on this site from such life in the rest of the Owens Valley. Geological resources are also basically similar throughout the area.

Recreation Significance

The Park and Recreation Information System (PARIS) demand allocation subsystem considers population projections; socioeconomic characteristics of the population; geographic location of the population, recreation areas, and facilities; current travel time, and seasonal travel patterns. The PARIS inventory subsystem includes the outdoor recreation areas and facilities of public agencies, plus those private areas that provide significant outdoor recreation opportunities.

A facilities analysis for Inyo and Mono counties – the two counties affected by this project – is as follows:

	Inyo	Mono	Total
Total facilities needed – 1970			
Camping units	2,416	1,103	3,519
Picnic tables	2,188	1,252	3,440
Boat access sites	941	829	1,770
Miles of trail	832	286	1,118
Existing facilities – 1970			
Camping units	2,612	4,631	7,243
Picnic tables	501	547	1,048
Boat access sites	233	1,015	1,248
Miles of trail	696	550	1,246



RESERVOIR

Scale

1000

300

Trees

AUDITORIUM

AIRPORT

FIGURE

STING

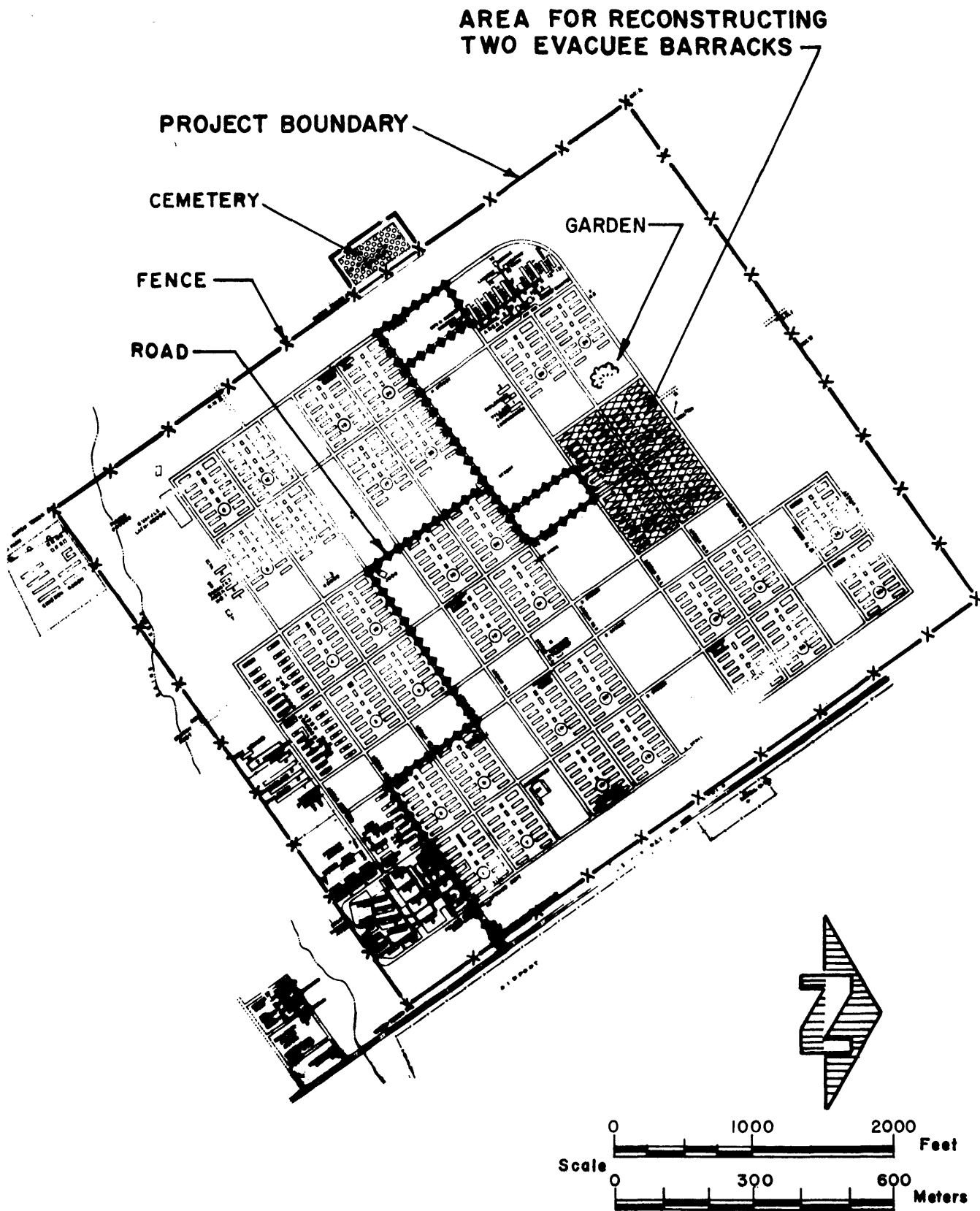


FIGURE 5

PROPOSED ACQUISITION AND LAND USE PLAN

	Inyo	Mono	Total
Additional facilities needed — 1970			
Camping units	-196	-3,528	-3,724
Picnic tables	1,687	705	2,392
Boat access sites	708	-186	522
Miles of trail	136	-264	-128

Southern California metropolitan centers appear to be the primary source (80 percent) of visitors to recreation areas within the county. There is apparently enough acreage available to meet in-county and out-of-county recreation demand, but access, water, and development may present problems.

Many camping opportunities are provided along U.S. Highway 395 by the counties, and are used mostly by nonlocal campers. It is anticipated that the impact of these facilities will increase as a result of action by the U.S. Forest Service to remove people from stream banks and generally establish more control in the mountain areas for environmental benefit. The Inyo County Planning Commission states that there is a lack of seasonal camping sites adjacent to Highway 395 for overnight stops by travelers.

According to the criteria defined in the *California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan, 1974 (CORRP)*, the Manzanar Project would be in the third priority category for allocation of Land and Water Conservation Funds in this planning district.

Responsibility

Since eighty percent of the visitors to the Manzanar area are from southern California metropolitan centers, it is the state's responsibility, rather than that of local government, to provide for out-of-area recreationists. Private enterprise can also provide recreation facilities.

Since the scenic and natural landscape is protected, the state is responsible only for preserving evidence of the state's history here and for providing opportunities for outdoor recreation. The closest State Park System units are Bodie State Historic Park, 120 miles north in Mono County, and Red Rock Canyon State Recreation Area, 90 miles south in Kern County. There are no units of the State Park System in Inyo County.

The Division of Highways has established criteria for highway rest stops to be provided at 60-mile intervals. Manzanar is approximately 30 miles south of such a stop at Division Creek on Highway 395. Therefore, no highway rest stop will be established by the Division of Highways.

The federal government is providing recreational opportunities on its vast landholdings. It still has some responsibility for historic interpretation of Manzanar in that it was a federal order that allowed the camp to be created.

Recommendations

Manzanar should be incorporated in the State Park System to interpret a significant aspect of California history.

Proposed Acquisition

The entire formerly enclosed 495-acre camp area, plus cemetery, is necessary for an adequate interpretation of the Manzanar story. Since the City of Los Angeles values this land only for its water rights, it should be feasible to transfer the land to the State Park System at no cost to the state. The City of Los Angeles would retain the water rights but would be relieved of in lieu tax payments to Inyo County. The county would probably prefer that the land be leased to continue their in lieu tax collection.

Development

The primary purpose of this project would be historic interpretation. A supplemental purpose would be development of a garden with structures for shelter. This facility would provide former inmates solace, the general community an opportunity to reflect and focus on the area's history, and the traveler a resting place.

Commercialism is not intended.

Interpretation would project the story of Manzanar objectively. It would depict the "flow of history," or what happened before, during, and after the period that the internment camp was in operation. This would be accomplished in reconstructed evacuee barracks. A citizens' advisory committee should be established to assist the state in this interpretation. Composition of the committee should include representatives of Japanese American civic, religious, and veteran organizations. The National Japanese American Citizens League could assist in selection of committee members. The advisory committee should also include members of local and state historical societies.

A road would be reconstructed through the camp following former road patterns to the cemetery just outside the rear boundary. This road would also serve an isolated area in which evacuee barracks would be reconstructed. This isolation will allow the visitor to imagine what the former camp atmosphere was like.

The entire camp area would be fenced with barbed wire to control access, which will help reduce the vandalism potential and impart more of the original camp feeling.

Physical remains throughout the camp, such as foundations, roads, gardens, and trees, would also be interpreted, but not restored. There is a possibility that one guard tower could be reconstructed.

The total cost of development is estimated at \$300,000. This would include equipment and administrative facilities.

Before any development is undertaken, this project is subject to a thorough evaluation of resources, public hearings, and the adoption of a resource management plan and a general development plan by the State Park and Recreation Commission, as required by law.

Proposed Operations

A historic unit of this size would normally be operated with one full-time ranger, one permanent-intermittent ranger, one full-time maintenance worker plus some seasonal aide help. This would amount to \$24,000 in annual salaries. Operating expenses are estimated at \$4,000 a year.

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